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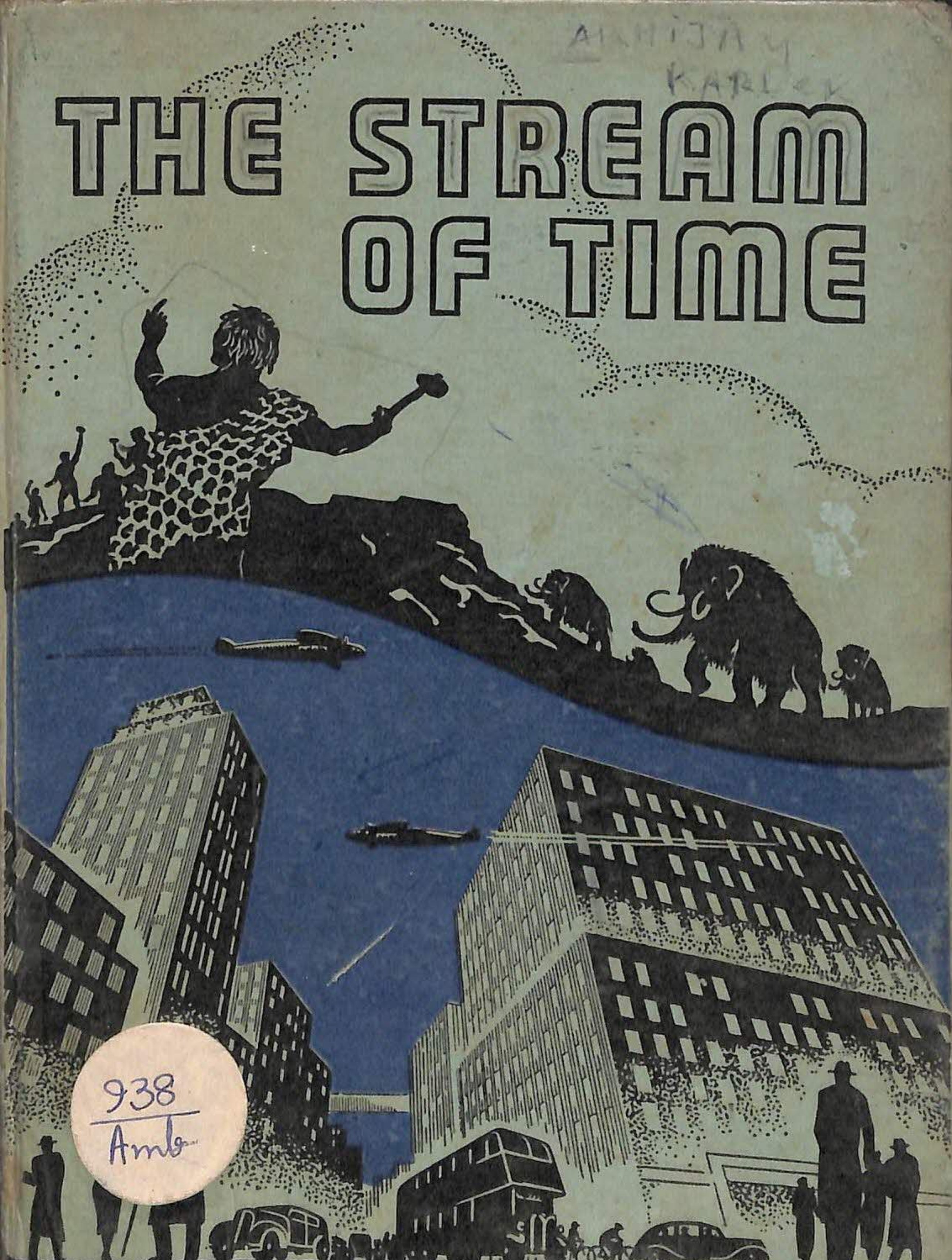

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HISTORY

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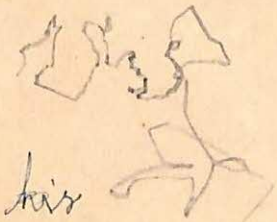

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THE STREAM OF TIME

By
S. O. AMBLER
Head Mistress, Peckham Central School for Girls, London
AND
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A History Series for Juniors

BOOK II

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THE STREAM OF TIME

A JUNIOR HISTORY SERIES

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Eleventh Edition

Printed in Great Britain

ABRIF

FOREWORD

The four books in this series aim at introducing to the Junior School child something of the wonder and fascination of History.

An attempt has been made to trace the chief influences which have produced the citizen of to-day, and it is hoped that the carefully chosen title and the diagrammatic representation at the end of each book will help the child mind to realize the continuity of history. Except in cases where it appeared essential to the theme, the subject of war has been avoided.

Some of the well-known stories which should be the birthright of every British child have been told, and the reading of others has been suggested in the end of chapter exercises.

The first two books deal with the discoveries of early man—fire, building, growth of trade, etc.—and they give an idea of what we owe to ancient civilization.

The third and fourth books tell the story of our own land. They also indicate, wherever possible, the contact between our history and great world events.

It is hoped that the simple, direct style and the abundance of illustrations will rouse the interest of the children,

and that the subject-matter will be a good preparation for the more advanced work of the Senior Schools.

The authors wish to express appreciation of the help given by the Head Teachers, Staff and children of the following schools:

Rangefield Junior Girls' L.C.C. School;
Oliver Goldsmith Junior Girls' L.C.C. School;
Bellenden Road Junior Boys' L.C.C. School,

where the books were tried out prior to publication.

S. O. Ambler.
Th. Coatman.

history book

As one of the Authors is engaged under the London County Council, it is necessary to state that the Council is in no way responsible for anything which is contained in this book.

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[From "Cassell's Children's Book of Knowledge."

Greek children at play

CHAPTER I

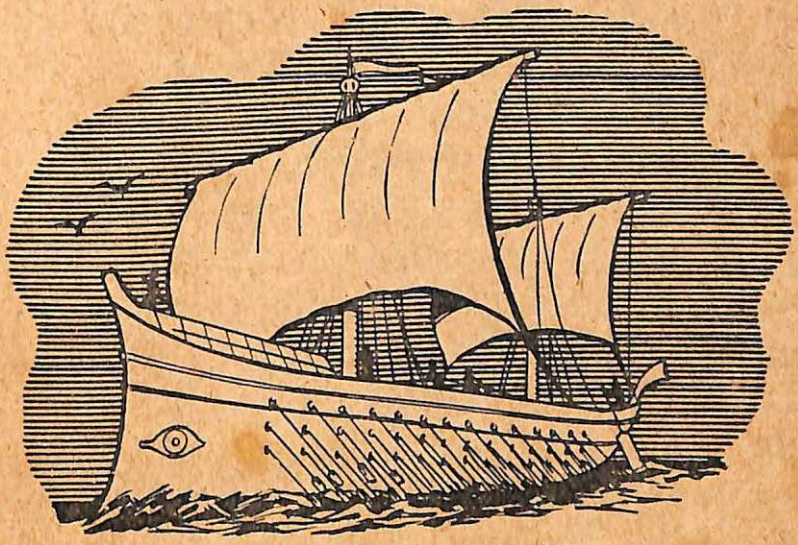
Stepping Stones

Have you ever jumped from stone to stone across a big puddle, or crossed a stream by stepping stones like the ones in this picture?

You will see from the map that scattered about the sea between Greece and Asia Minor are so many islands that you can hardly count them.

Between Greece and Asia Minor there are numbers of small islands

It was these islands that were the stepping stones of long ago. Of course, people could not really jump from one island to another



An early Greek sailing ship

across the sea. But ships could make short journeys from one island to another. So they could reach Asia Minor from Greece without a long sea voyage.

In those far-off days it was not so easy to travel by sea as it is now.

Ships were small, and masts

and sails were not very strong. The sailors had no compass, and their guides were the sun and the stars. In bad weather, when they could not see the sun or the stars, they were helpless. So they tried to keep their ships always within sight of land.

Now you can see why we called the islands on the map "stepping stones".

We do not know who were the first sailors to pass from one to the other of these stepping stones. We only know that they braved the stormy winds and rough waves because they wanted to trade, to buy and sell and to get from other lands the things which they had not in their own country.

The traders of long ago were fighters too, because there was

often quarrelling and jealousy among the men from different countries.

The Cretans, of whom we read in Book I, fought with the Greek sailors who were beginning to sail from island to island and over to Asia Minor.

At first the Cretans won. After some time the Greeks conquered them and became lords of the Eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea.

THINGS TO DO

1. Tell the story, which you read in Book I, of how Theseus the Greek killed the Cretan Bull.
2. Play a game of stepping stones in your playground.
3. Answer these questions :
   (a) Why were the sailors of long ago anxious to find new lands ?
   (b) Why are the islands on the map like stepping stones ?
   (c) Why was sailing so dangerous long ago ?

CHAPTER II

The Greeks and the Trojans

When the Greeks sailed eastward over the sea to trade or plunder they found other races besides the Cretans who did not like their coming.

In the North West corner of Asia Minor was a very famous city called Troy or Ilion. Its kings were powerful on land as the Cretan kings were powerful at sea. The people of Troy, who were called Trojans, tried to stop the Greeks from coming, and fought hard against them.

More than two thousand years ago, HOMER, one of the world's most famous poets, told stories of this fighting. In his poem called

the Iliad, we read that long ago there was a king of Troy called Priam, who had fifty sons. The most beautiful of these was Paris, and the bravest was Hector.

Paris

Paris went on a visit to the King of Sparta, in Greece, and there he met the king's wife Helen, who was the most beautiful woman in the world.

Paris stole her away from her husband and child, and sailed off with her to Troy.

The King of Sparta was very angry. He called together all the kings and heroes of Greece, and asked them to go with him to Troy to bring back Helen and to punish Paris.

So a great company of Greeks sailed away to Troy in their fighting ships, and in this way began the famous Trojan War which lasted for ten long years. The Greeks put up their tents on the sea shore near Troy, and waited for a chance to break through the wall of the city.

Priam, the Trojan king, was too old to fight. Paris, the cause of all the trouble, was lazy and careless and rather a coward, though he could fight when he chose.

There were many brave Greek

fighters, but the most famous of them all was Achilles.

After the war had lasted for nine years, neither side seemed to be winning. So both Greeks and Trojans determined to do some mighty act which would settle the matter, and a fierce battle began.

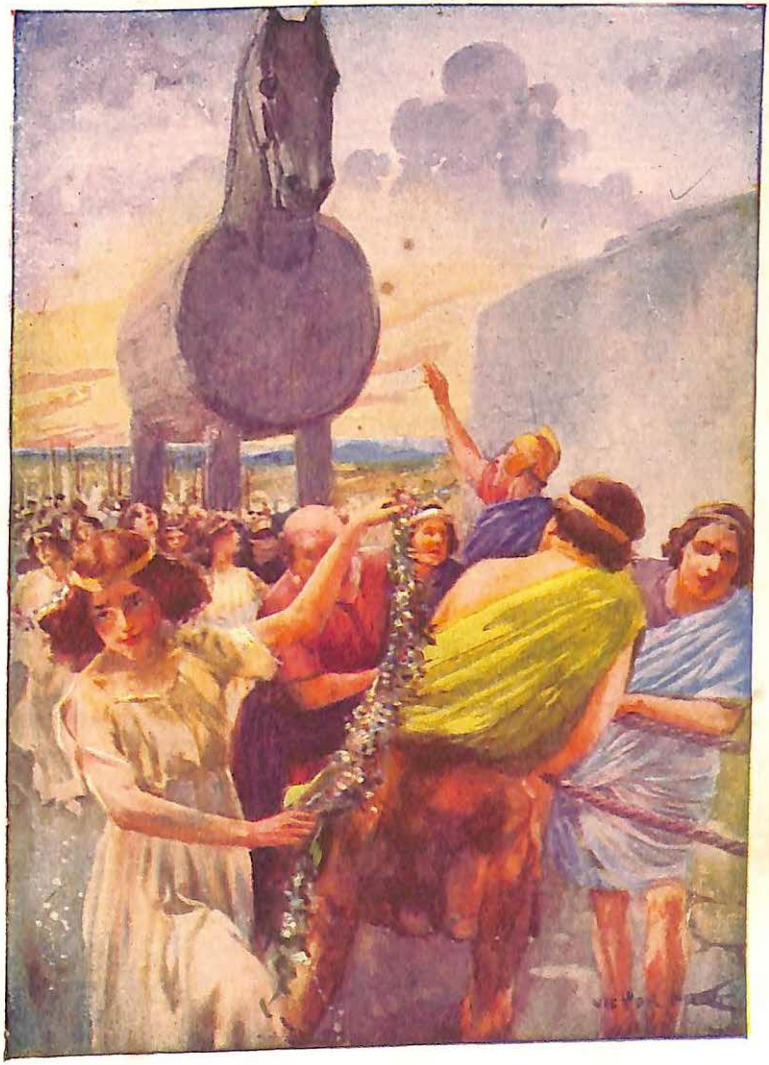
Achilles and Hector fought hand to hand

In the thick of the fight Achilles and Hector met and fought hand

to hand against each other. The gods helped Achilles and Hector was slain. Then Achilles tied the dead body of Hector to the back of his chariot and drove with him in triumph all round the outside of the walls of Troy.

But in spite of the death of Hector, the Greeks had not won, because they had not captured the city of Troy. Then the Greeks thought of a trick. They made a huge wooden horse, inside which they hid a number of men.

They left the horse on the shore and sailed away. The Trojans were told that the horse would bring them luck, and they dragged it into their city. When night came the Greeks hidden in the horse tumbled out and killed the sentries. The other Greeks, who



Dragging the wooden horse into Troy

had only pretended to sail away, came back again in the dark and rushed into Troy. The city was set on fire, and most of the Trojans were either killed or captured as slaves.

Thus ended the long Trojan War. One day you must read for yourselves the many stories Homer tells of these ten years of war.

We call these stories legends because they are not really true. There certainly were wars between the Greeks and the Trojans, but the people Homer mentions were not real people.

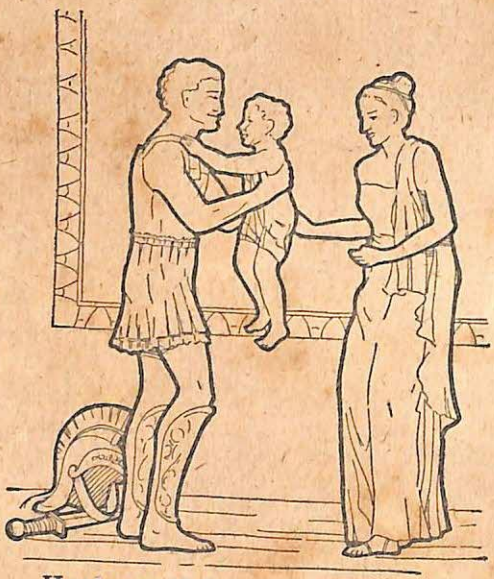
It is as though you made up a story about your school. None of the people in the story would be real, but the things they did would be true. You would make them have the same food, clothes,

games and lessons as yourselves, even though you had given them made-up names. In the same way Homer's stories tell us a great deal about the people of those days. We learn what they wore, what they ate, and how they behaved.

The fighting men wore a breastplate of bronze, and carried a large shield. They fought with bows and arrows, spears and swords. On their heads they had great bronze helmets with plumes of horsehair.

Homer tells how Hector's little son was frightened of his father's big helmet with its waving plume of horsehair, dyed red. He cried and hid his face on his nurse's shoulder. So Hector took off his shining helmet and, putting it on the ground, took his little son in his arms and kissed him good bye.

The Greeks and Trojans believed that the gods and goddesses they worshipped sometimes came down to earth in the form of men and women.



Hector said farewell to his son

They took sides in the fighting, helped their favourites and harmed those they disliked. They often quarrelled among themselves and seem to us to have been selfish and bad-tempered. But the Greeks loved and feared them, and tried very hard to please them.

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This beautiful figure with wings on his feet was the messenger of the gods. Some of the other gods are mentioned later on in this book.

Hermes [*Anderson photo*

THINGS TO DO

1. Read the story of the heel of Achilles, or perhaps your teacher will read it to you.

2. Tell the story of how the Greeks entered Troy.

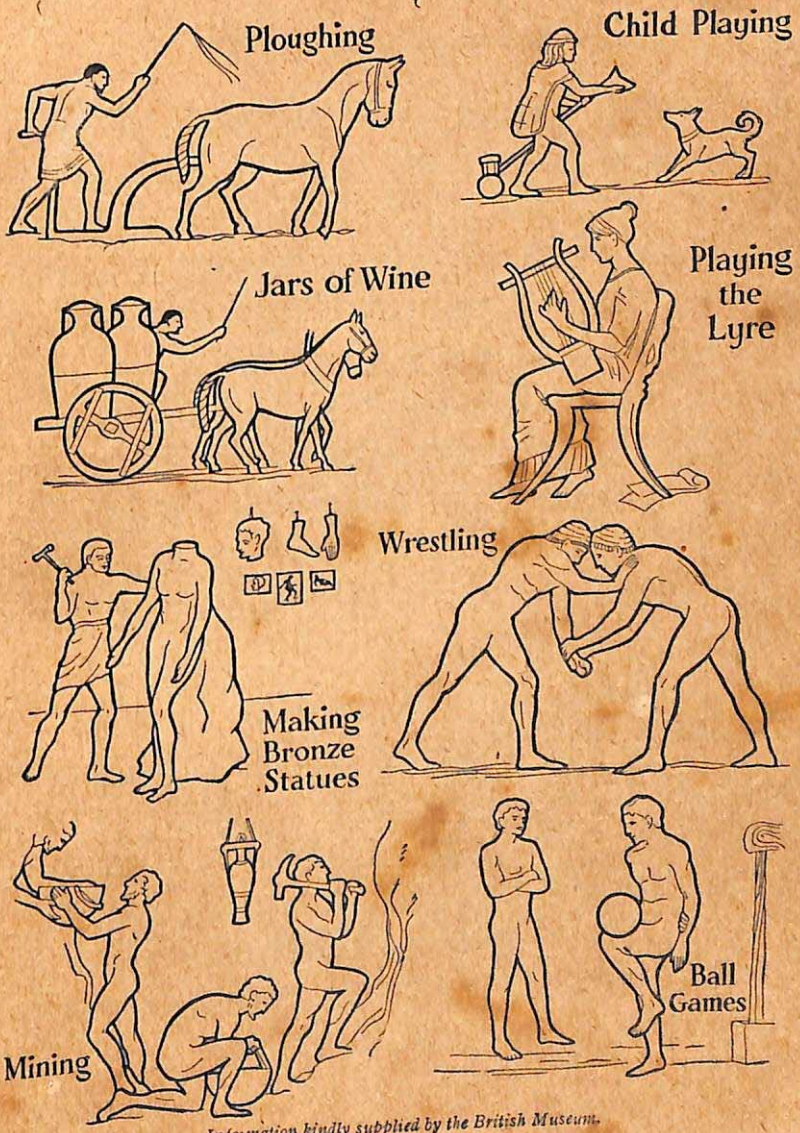
CHAPTER III

How the Greeks Lived

We read in Book I about the people of the River Lands and about the ancient Egyptians. But all that we know about them we have to learn from buried buildings and from stone carvings.

With the Greeks it is different. Their cities are not buried in the sand; people still live in them to-day, and their language is read by thousands. We can find out so much about the ancient Greeks that we almost feel as if we know them.

We read that the men worked in the fields or looked after the sheep and cattle. They chopped wood for fires. They picked grapes



Information kindly supplied by the British Museum.

Ancient Greeks at Work and Play

Which of these things do we do to-day?

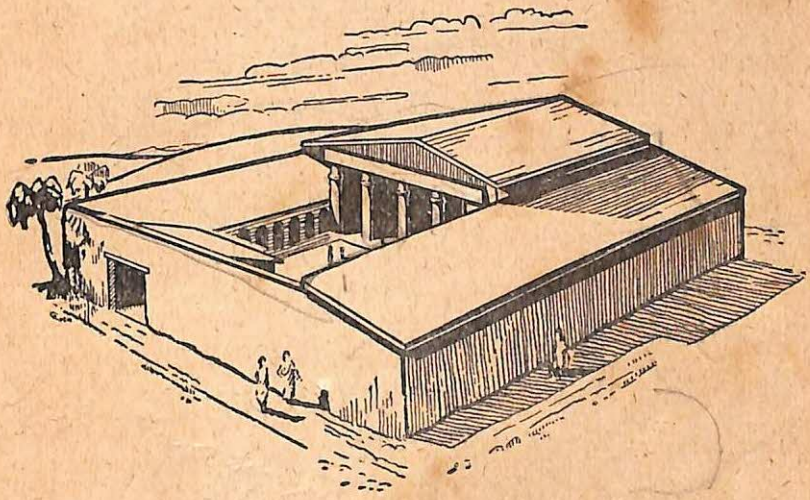
and made wine. They made leather from the skins of animals, and cut down trees and built ships. They did the work of blacksmiths, making tools and weapons and armour. They built houses and temples, and put stone walls round their cities.

All day long they were busy. In the evening when it was too dark to work they sat round the fire and listened while the men who could sing and play the lyre sang songs about the gods and heroes.

The women wore long, loose gowns fastened with a girdle. They did not wear hats, but bound up their long hair with a band.

The women did the work of the house, such as cleaning, fetching water, grinding corn, cooking, spinning and weaving. They also looked after the children.

The richer Greeks had slaves, both men and women. But they were treated as part of the family, and were fed and clothed in return for their work.



How a house in Ancient Greece would have looked

Greek houses were built round a courtyard. The rooms opened out of one another, and also on to the courtyard.

In each house was a little

place set apart for the worship of the gods, and there a fire was always burning.

As time went on many Greeks left the country and came to live in towns, just as people do to-day. In the towns shops were needed, and many people earned their living by keeping shops or by making and bringing the goods which were sold in them.

In the early days when people wanted something they could not get or make for themselves, they exchanged with other people.

For example, a man who wanted a sword or a helmet would give so many cattle in exchange. It was not easy always to have at hand the goods that they wanted to exchange. Bars of iron or silver or gold, which were

worth the same as the cattle, were easier to handle. So people began to use them for selling. But later on they found that round coins were easier still, and so money came into use.

Map showing the chief Greek states

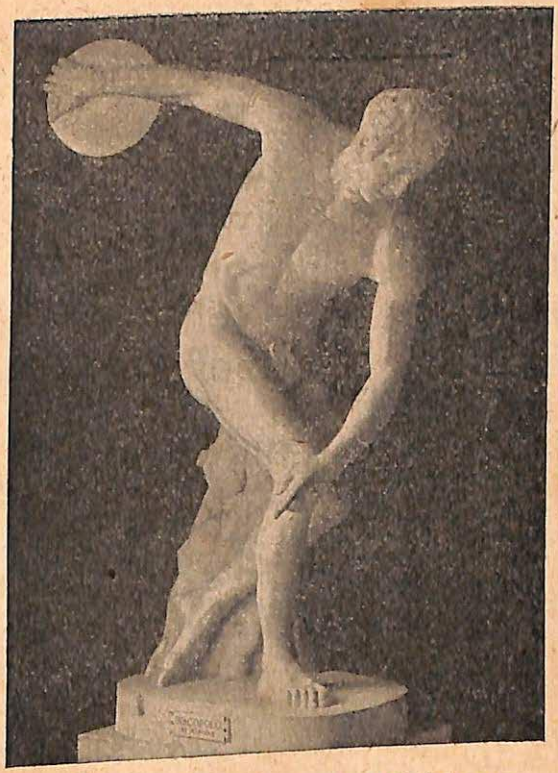
The Greeks were not all under one king as the Egyptians and the Cretans were. Each division or state in Greece had its own king or ruler and its own chief city.

Although they were so divided, the Greeks all spoke the same

language and believed in the same gods, and there were two places in Greece where they all met together.

One of these places was a lovely valley called OLYMPIA. At the foot of a tree-clad hill the Greeks built a temple to Zeus, the King of the gods, and to Hera his wife.

In this valley every fourth summer the Greeks had a great festival in honour of the gods. There they held contests in all kinds of sport, such as boxing, wrestling, horse-racing, chariot-racing, jumping, running and weight throwing. There were also competitions in singing and in reciting poetry, for the Greeks loved music and poetry. People came from all over the Greek world for these festivals.



A Greek athlete throwing the Discus

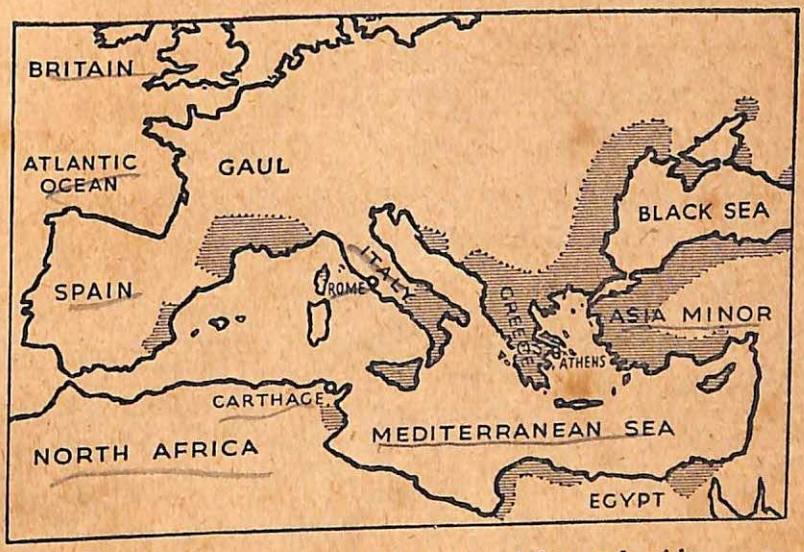
The greatest wish of a young Greek was to win at the Games. If he did so he was crowned with a wreath of wild olive, and his statue was put up at Olympia.

Games were held also at Delphi, but it was most famous for its secret cave where, so the Greeks said, Apollo, the Sun God, lived.

If a Greek were in great difficulty and did not know what to do, he would tell his trouble to the priests of Apollo. Then the priests would go into the cave to ask the god's advice, and presently they would come back with the answer. They called this "consulting the oracle."

THINGS TO DO

1. Describe how the Greeks gradually began to use money.
2. Explain what we mean by "consulting the oracle."



The Greek colonies spread far and wide

CHAPTER IV

New Homes across the Sea

You remember that in the chapter called " Stepping Stones " we said that the Greeks passed easily from Greece to Asia Minor because of the little islands that lay between.

At first they sailed home again

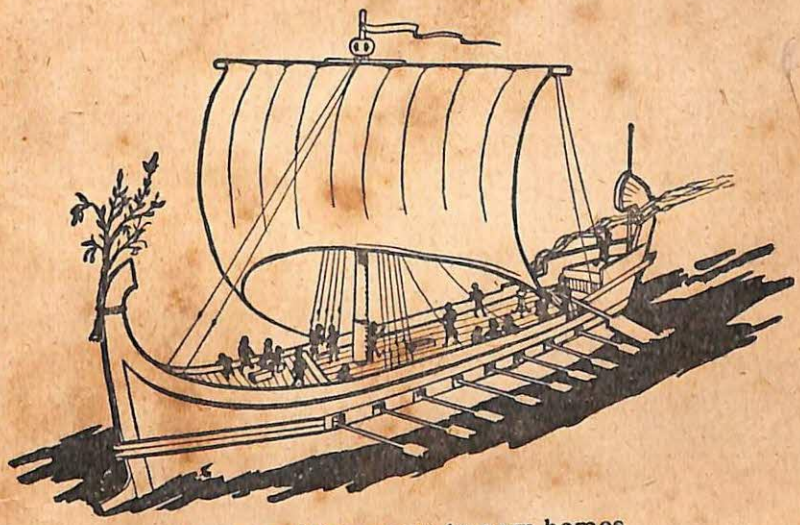
as soon as they had exchanged all the goods they had brought in their ships. They gave skins, wool, pottery or wine in exchange for fish, olive oil, linen or other wines.

But presently they began to think that the places they visited would be very pleasant to stay in, and some of the sailors decided to build houses and settle down.

They wanted their wives and children and friends with them in these new homes, so they went back to Greece and spent the winter preparing new ships and getting everything ready. Then, when the good weather came again, they set sail.

It was a very solemn occasion when they set forth from their home city to start their new home across the seas.

First the Oracle at Delphi had to be asked if he thought that they ought to go. Then a leader had to be chosen, and to him was given some of the sacred fire that always burned before the altar of the god of the city.



Greeks sailing away to new homes

And so, to the sound of music, the ships sailed away, carrying on board, as well as the sacred fire,

a branch of one of the old home trees fixed to the prow of the ship.

The god of the old city, which was called the "mother" city, was always the god of the new one, and the two cities remained the closest friends.

The Greeks were the first people to have colonies of this kind. We British people are very much like them, for we too have a little Mother-country and big new daughter countries across the sea.

Far and wide the Greek colonies spread, wherever the Greek ships could sail. Look at the colonies marked on the map on page 31. They are found to the far east and the far west of Europe, all along the shores of Asia Minor, and on part of the Northern coast of Africa.

Wherever the Greeks went they

took with them all the knowledge they themselves had, and all that they had learned from the Cretans, the Phœnicians and the Egyptians.

So the people in lands where the Greeks settled learned from them how to read, how to write, how to count, and how to do sums and many other things.

All these very useful things went on down the Stream of Time to us because the Greeks were good sailors and colonists, and they took their knowledge with them wherever they went.

THINGS TO DO

1. Pretend you can see a Greek ship just ready to start off for a new home. Mention some of the things that it may be carrying.

2. Answer these questions : (a) In what ways are the British people like the Greeks ? (b) What is a colony ?

CHAPTER V

The Greeks and the Persians

When the Greeks began to settle in Asia Minor, they found that most of the land belonged to the kingdom of Lydia. The Lydian kings treated the Greek colonists very well, and were friendly to them and to the Greeks in the homeland.

King Crœsus

Lydia was a very rich land, and the Greeks told each other wonderful stories of the wealth of Crœsus, the greatest of the Lydian

kings. Indeed, even to-day, people sometimes say of a wealthy man that he is "as rich as Crœsus." But when the Lydian king was conquered by the great king of Persia, the Greeks lost their friend.

Soon afterwards Darius, the mighty Persian king, made up his mind to attack the little country of Greece. This is that same King Darius who conquered Babylon and who had Daniel thrown into the den of lions.

He was particularly angry with the Greeks of Athens who had sent help to their friends in Asia Minor. It is said that he told a slave to say to him three times a day "Sire, remember the Athenians," in order to remind him to punish them.

The army of Darius landed near

Athens at a place called MARATHON. Here the little Athenian army, helped by about a thousand men from another state, defeated the Persians, and Athens was saved.

There is a very interesting story connected with the battle of Marathon. When the Persians arrived the Athenians thought of asking help from another Greek state called Sparta. A famous runner, called PHEIDIPPIDES, who had been a prize winner at the Olympic games, was asked to take the message to Sparta.

There was no road from Athens to Sparta in those days. Pheidippides ran when he could, but he had to swim across rivers and climb mountains. After toiling on for two days and nights without resting he reached Sparta.

E.N.A.

Marathon

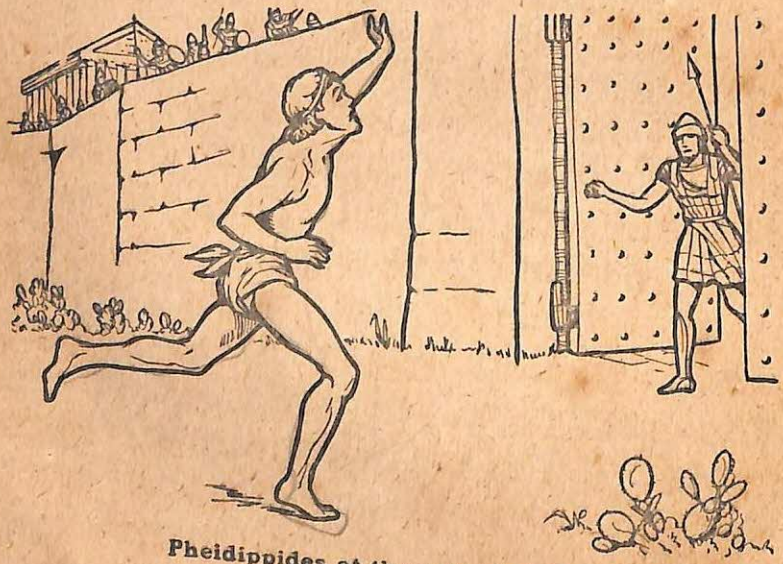
Near here lie buried 192 Athenians who were killed in the battle.

The Spartans promised to help, but said they could not start until after the moon was full.

So back again Pheidippides went, without any rest, to deliver this message to the Athenian general. He was just in time to join his regiment as the battle of Marathon began. Tired as he was,

all day long he fought, clad in heavy armour and carrying his great spear.

When the fighting was ended and the Persians were fleeing to their ships, the general asked Pheidippides if he could run to Athens with the news of the victory. Athens was twenty-six miles away,



Pheidippides at the gate of Athens

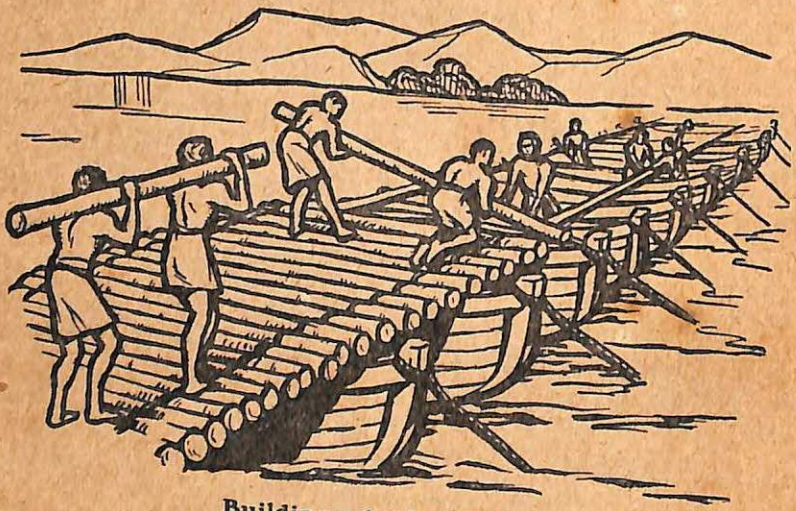
but he ran as he had never run before. He reached the gates of Athens, cried out "Rejoice: we conquer," and fell dead just as the gates were opened to let him in.

About four years after the battle of Marathon, Darius died and Xerxes became king of the Persians in his place. He planned to take to Greece a great army and a great fleet.

The army had to cross over from Asia Minor at the narrow strait of water called the Hellespont, and there the Persians built two great bridges of boats for the men to march over.

The first two bridges which were made were wrecked by the sea, and Xerxes was angry. Even though he was a powerful king, he was such a foolish man that

he had the sea beaten with whips as a punishment. Then the workmen began to build again, and when the bridges were ready the



Building a bridge of boats

great Persian army moved across, while Xerxes watched from his golden throne on the hill-side.

Meanwhile the people of Athens were preparing to resist the Persians. They built as many ships

as they could, so that they could fight on the sea, and they sent to the other Greek states to ask for help to fight on land.

The Spartans sent some of their splendid soldiers, led by their king, Leonidas. Every Spartan boy wanted above all else to be a brave soldier. The Spartan boys and men spent all their time practising things that would make them strong and hardy and good soldiers. They did not care for beauty or comfort or books or even for any home life.

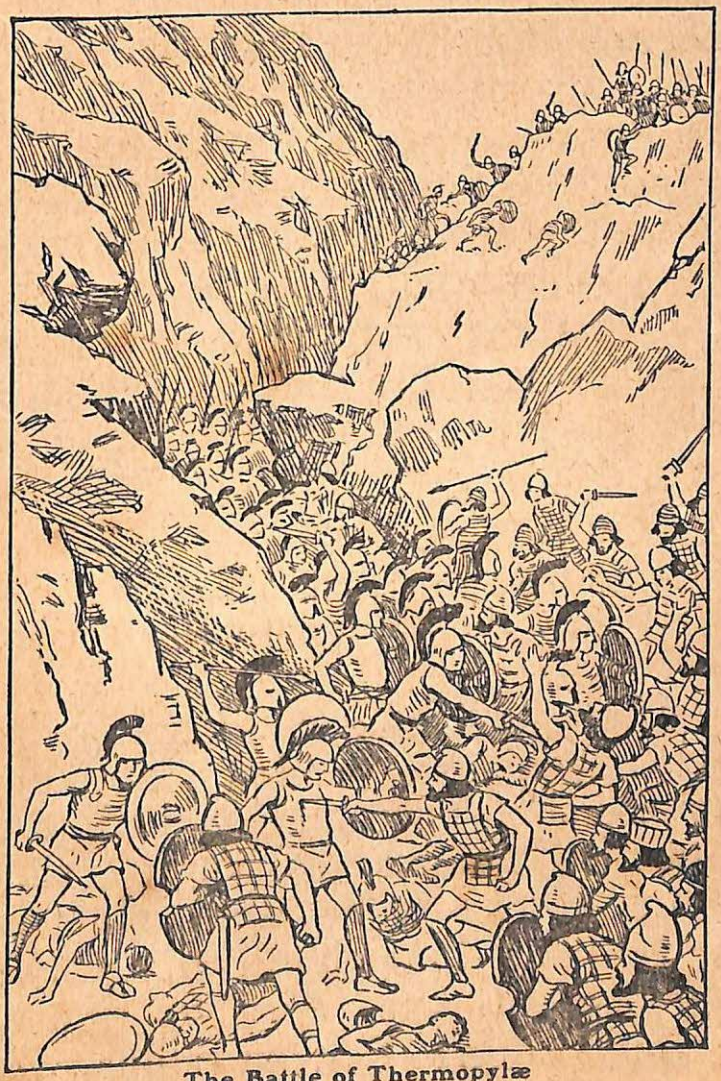
Children were taken right away from their mothers and fathers when they were quite tiny, and were brought up in barracks, like soldiers. They were given very coarse food to eat and very few clothes to wear. And they

were never allowed to cry or to grumble.

It was agreed that Leonidas and his small army should block the narrow pass called THERMOPYLAE, between the mountains and the sea. The Persians were bound to pass this way in order to reach Athens, and for three days they tried to drive the Spartans away.

Then a treacherous Greek showed the Persians a way round the mountains, and during the night Leonidas and his three hundred Spartans were surrounded. Early in the day they could have escaped, but they would not leave the place they had promised to guard.

All day long they fought until not one of them was left alive. They did not die in vain, for their example encouraged the other Greeks



The Battle of Thermopylæ

to dare to oppose the Persians. Here is a copy of the writing that was put up on a stone raised to their memory at Thermopylae. You can see what Greek writing looks like, and you can tell why it was that the Spartans were so proud of Leonidas and his men.

Ὦ ξεῖν', ἀγγέλλειν Λακεδαιμονιοις ὅτι τῇδε
κειμεθα τοῖς κείνων ῥήμασι πειθόμενοι

"Go tell the Spartans, thou that passest by,
That here obedient to their laws we lie."

After the battle of Thermopylae, the Athenians decided to attack the Persian fleet. They had only about a quarter as many ships as the Persians, but they managed to get the Persian fleet squeezed together in the narrow bay of SALAMIS. The Persian ships were

soon in confusion, and the Athenians defeated them utterly.

Once again the Persians tried to overcome the Greeks. This time Greek and Persian armies met at PLATAEA, and here the Greeks won a great victory over the Persians. After this Xerxes gave up trying to conquer Greece.

Marathon, Thermopylae, Salamis and Plataea are names we must all remember. The great victories which the Greeks won there have made a difference not only to Greece but to the world.

THINGS TO DO

1. Ask your teacher to read to you the story of the Spartan boy and the fox.
2. Draw a map of Greece and put a X at the four places where the Greeks fought against the Persians. Find them in your atlas.
3. Try to act the story of Pheidippides.

An ancient Greek temple at Athens

CHAPTER VI

The Greeks and Ourselves

We ought to be very much interested in the Greeks because many things that we do in England to-day are done because the Greeks used to do them. It was the Greeks who invented ball games, so when you play rounders you are really playing a Greek game.

St. George's Hall, Liverpool [*Dorondo Mills, Ltd.*

This building in an English city is much like the Greek temple on the opposite page.

When you talk about the cinema you are using a Greek word which means "moving," though, of course, the Greeks had not moving pictures as we have.

Some of our buildings to-day are just like Greek buildings of long ago.

It was the Greeks who invented plays and pantomimes and the theatre, but their theatres were open

to the sky, while ours have to be roofed in because of our bad weather.

The Greeks even invented sausages.

Nowadays, when you are trying to decide which game to play, you count how many vote for one game and how many for another. It was the Greeks who invented that way of settling things peaceably without quarrelling or fighting.

Of all the cities in Greece the one which is the most important to people living to-day was Athens. This is because the wise and clever men who lived there made such beautiful things and thought such wonderful thoughts that the rest of the world has always remembered them.

Many men helped to make Athens

beautiful and great, and we must try to remember the names of some of them.

PERICLES was general of the army, admiral of the fleet and the chief man in the city. He wanted Athens to be not only strong and wealthy, but beautiful and happy.

Under his guidance the Greeks made temples and statues of the gods.

High up on a sacred hill in the middle of the city they put an enormous bronze statue of Athene, the goddess after whom the city was named. The sun flashing on her helmet and on the tip of her spear could be seen far out to sea. They also built in her honour a great temple, which was called the PARTHENON, or the temple of the maidens.

Other temples stood on this hill, which was called the Acropolis.

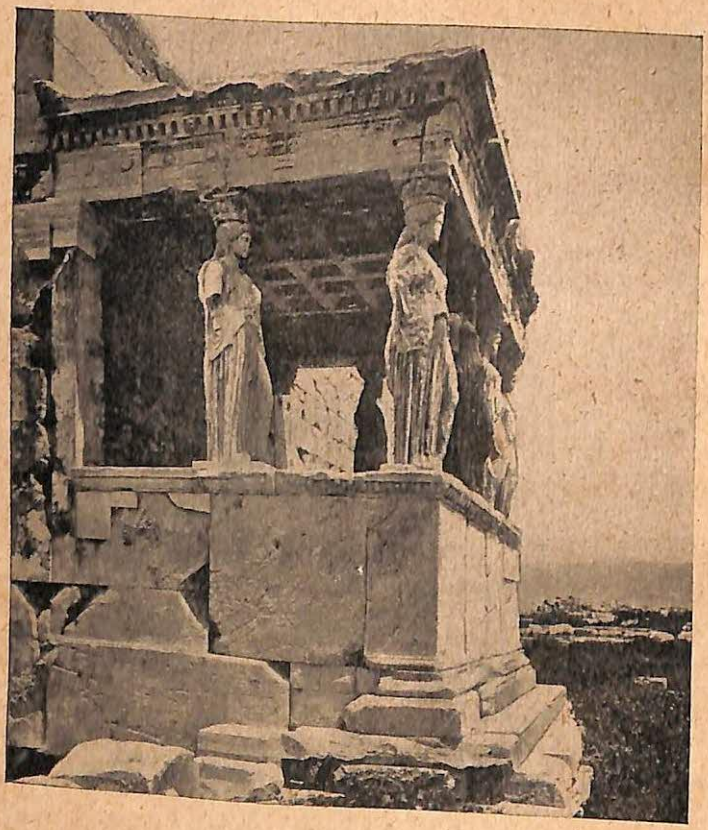
Pieces of the buildings on the Acropolis have been found. On them are the most beautiful carvings of gods and goddesses and people that have ever been made.

Some of the statues were brought from Athens to London, and are in our British Museum. Artists and sculptors of all times and countries have longed to do work as beautiful as that of those long-ago Greeks.

Pericles wanted not only to make Athens beautiful. He wanted the Athenian people to have healthy bodies, to think noble thoughts and to speak lovely words.

So he built a great open air gymnasium where they could play games and do exercises and dance

Athene, the goddess of Wisdom



[*By courtesy of British Museum.*

A temple with carved statues

to make their bodies strong and graceful.

Also they could visit a big

open-air theatre and, sitting in the sunshine, watch a play which had been written by one of their great authors.

Greek plays are still acted in England to-day, but usually we have to act them indoors. There is one school which has built an open-air theatre, just like a Greek one, where a Greek play is acted in Greek each year by the boys.

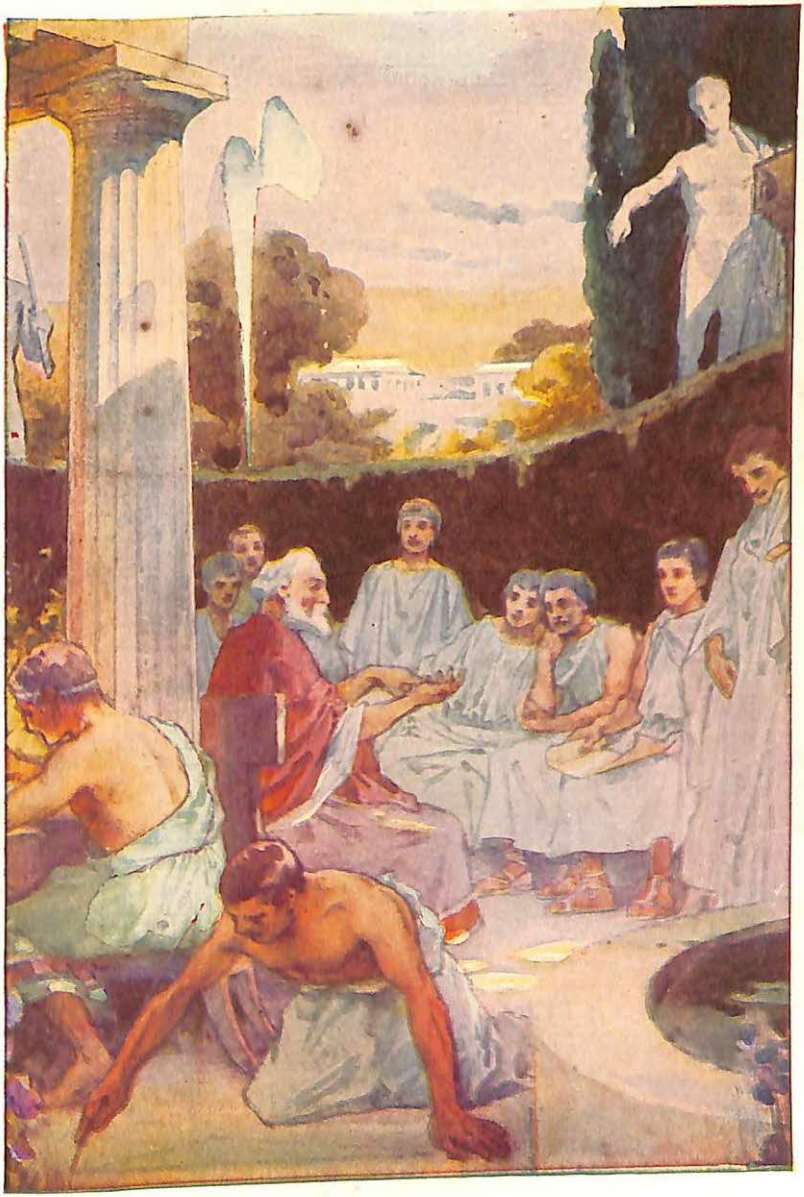
Often all the Athenians came together into the open-air theatre or into an open space in the city to hear speeches or poems by great men.

There are too many of us nowadays to crowd into one open space, but we too can listen by means of the radio to great speeches and poems and plays. We sit by our own fireside to listen.

If we had walked through the streets of Athens in those days we should have seen a rather ugly little man called SOCRATES. It was said of him that he was "of all the men of his time the wisest and justest and best."

He was a great teacher, and tried to make people understand things by asking them questions. He did not teach in a school or college as teachers do now. He wandered about the streets or sat in a corner of the market place and talked to the children and young men and to any who would stop to listen and to think. "Know thyself" he kept saying.

A pupil of Socrates was PLATO, who also became a great teacher. They were both "philosophers," which means "lovers of wisdom."



Plato and his pupils

What a wonderful city Athens must have been with its beautiful buildings and statues, and its wise men who taught the Athenians how to live a good life. The world is more beautiful to-day because of some of the things that were done and said and thought in Athens in the time of Pericles.

THINGS TO DO

1. Try to make a model of a Greek building.
2. What sort of amusements did the Greeks have? What amusements do we have to-day?
3. Make a list of the things you do which are copied from the Greeks.

Socrates

CHAPTER VII

Alexander The Great

After the death of Socrates, while Athens was still great and wonderful, danger came to Greece.

Away to the North of Greece was a rocky, mountainous land called MACEDONIA, whose king, Philip, wanted to persuade the Greeks to join him against the Persians.

Philip was just getting ready to lead a Greek army against the Persians when he was murdered, and his son Alexander became king.

There is a story about the boyhood of Alexander which shows how brave and sensible he was.

The Macedonians were great horsemen, and Philip had been given a splendid horse, which was so fierce and untamed that no one could ride it. Many of Philip's nobles tried and were thrown off.

Alexander, who was only fourteen years of age, asked if he might try. The king and his friends laughed at the idea of a boy riding so fierce an animal, but Alexander had noticed that the horse was more frightened than fierce. He went up to him and gently turned him to face the sun,

for it was his own moving shadow that had disturbed him.

Then, still speaking kindly and patting him gently, he leapt on his back and rode off like the wind. Presently he returned, riding the now tamed and docile animal. His father was so delighted that he at once gave Alexander the horse. It became his constant companion and was called Bucephalus.

Alexander admired everything that was Greek, and was proud to be at the head of Greek soldiers. He determined to carry out his father's plans and attack Persia. He defeated the Persians in two great battles, and after the second one he became king of Persia.

There is a story told of how he came to a town called Gordium, and there found a royal chariot

tied up with a knotted rope. It was said that whoever should untie this knot should be King of Asia. Many people had tried and failed. Alexander drew his sword and cut through the rope. That was his way of untying the Gordian knot.

Cutting the Gordian Knot

After he had passed through Asia Minor, Alexander entered Phœnicia and conquered the great city of Tyre about which we read in Book I.

Then he went on to Egypt

and was crowned king of that country in the old capital of the Pharaohs. He sailed down the River Nile and near its mouth he founded a wonderful city which is still called Alexandria after his name.

But Alexander's dreams of conquest were not yet satisfied, and he pushed on eastwards through Persia, across some of the wildest mountains in the world, and entered India. Here he found great kingdoms ruled by mighty kings. Some of these he defeated, and with some he made friends.

Still he longed to press on and see more of the wonders of this strange land, but the Greek soldiers refused to go any farther. They were homesick for their lovely land of Greece.

So Alexander had to turn back. He reached Persia once more and held a great court, receiving visitors from all the countries he had conquered. Then, when he was only thirty-three years of age and was at the highest point of his power, he died.

He had taken Greek ideas and Greek customs far into the East, and he had made men realise that the world was much larger than the Mediterranean people thought it was.

THINGS TO DO

1. Pretend to be Bucephalus, and tell how Alexander tamed you.
2. What was the Gordian knot? How did Alexander untie it?
3. How did Alexandria get its name?

[By courtesy of Italian State Railways

The city of Rome to-day

CHAPTER VIII

The City on Seven Hills

If you look back at the map on page 31, you will see that some of the Greek colonies are found on a country which is shaped rather like a leg. This country is Italy, and it looks as if

it is just going to kick the island of Sicily.

The most wonderful city in Italy is Rome, a city built on seven hills. It is very, very old, and the Romans were at one time the greatest nation in the world. There is a Roman legend which tells how the city began.

The first builders were twin brothers called ROMULUS and REMUS, who were the grandsons of a king. When they were very, very tiny babies, an enemy drove their grandfather from his throne, and ordered that the babies should be thrown into the River Tiber.

Soldiers put the sleeping children into a rough cradle, and left it in the shallow part of the river, thinking that the water would fill the cradle and drown the

children. But the river seemed to know that these were special babies, and so its waves bore the cradle on and on until it stuck

[*By courtesy of Italian State Railways*

The Twins were fed by a she-wolf

fast in the mud under a fig tree. There the twin babies were found and fed by a she-wolf who treated them just as she did her own little cubs.

One day a shepherd passing by saw the strange sight and took

the babies home and brought them up as his own sons.

When they grew up they became the leaders of a band of fierce, war-like young men. They decided to make a home on one of the seven low hills, on the south side of the river Tiber, not far from its mouth. But they quarrelled as to which hill they should choose.

In the quarrel Remus was killed. Then Romulus and his friends went on with the building of the city. They called it Rome after the name Romulus.

As time went on more and more people came to live there, more homes were made, and at last there were buildings on each of the seven hills beside the river.

The Romans soon became the

leaders of all the people who lived near them on the south side of the river Tiber. These people were the Latins, and the language which the Romans spoke is called Latin.

Often the Romans had to fight against some fierce people called Etruscans who lived across the Tiber, on its north side. At one time the Etruscans defeated the Romans so badly that Rome had to have an Etruscan king.

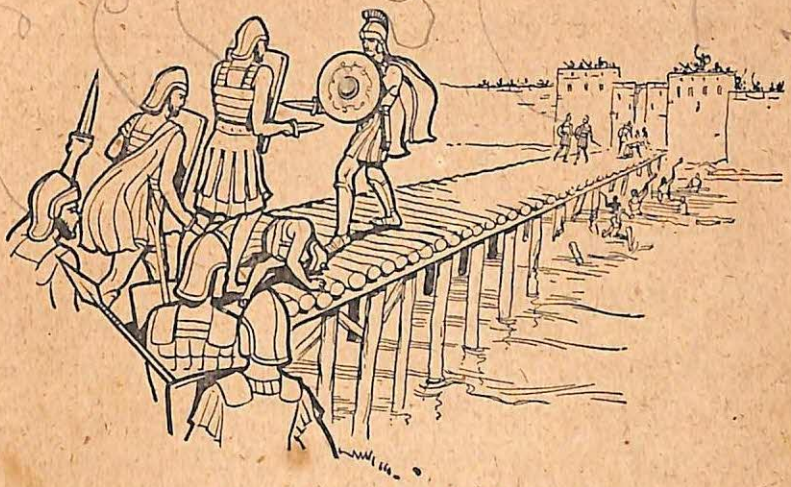
The Etruscans were good sailors. Their ships brought painted vases, bronze chariots and carved statues which the Etruscans had bought or copied from the Greeks.

Then Greek ships came too, and the Romans began to buy and sell. At first they paid with

oxen or grain, but, like the Greeks, they soon found that very troublesome. So they used bars of iron, and later still they found how useful round coins are.

Some of the Etruscans who ruled over Rome were both proud and cruel, and the Romans hated them. At last the Romans rose against them and drove out the Etruscan king. He tried to come back with an army, and even reached the bridge outside the city.

While the Romans were cutting away the supports of the bridge, a brave officer called HORATIUS fought with the Etruscans to keep them off. The bridge gave way at last, and the Etruscans could not cross. Horatius swam back to the shore, and Rome was saved.



Horatius Keeping the Bridge

Then, instead of a king, the Romans chose from among themselves two men whom they called Consuls. They were to rule for one year only. When the year was over, two more would be chosen. Each Consul wore a long white cloak or "toga," as it was called, with a purple stripe to show how important he was.

Also when he went into the street twelve men called "lictors" went with him. They carried bundles of rods with an axe in the middle of the bundle. This was to show that the Consuls had power to punish people by beating them with the rods or cutting off their heads with the axe. The bundles were called "fasces," and it is from that word that the modern Italian name Fascist is taken.

Consul and lictors

The Consuls were helped by a number of wise men who formed what was called the Senate.

There was much quarrelling in the early days of Rome because there was such a big difference between the ways in which the rich and the poor lived.

The poorer farmers and the men who worked with their hands were often in debt, and were not allowed any share in managing their own city. So they grew very angry and discontented. Once they even went on strike, and marched out of Rome saying that they would not come back until they had better treatment. As a result, the Senate made new laws which were more fair to rich and poor alike.

After a time it became possible

for any Roman, rich or poor, to hold a high position if he could show that he loved his city and had worked hard for it.

THINGS TO DO

1. See if you can draw a picture of the consul with his twelve lictors.
2. Answer these questions :
   (a) Where do the words "Rome" and "Latin" come from?
   (b) Pretend you were the shepherd who found the twin babies, and tell your story.

CHAPTER IX

How the Romans Lived

One of the first things little Roman children learnt was to be proud of belonging to Rome, and to be ready to work or to fight to make Rome safe and prosperous.

A Roman family of those days was a happy one, and, like the Greek family, it was a large one too. It included not only the mother and father and children, but the grown-up sons and their wives. The rich families had slaves who did the hard work.

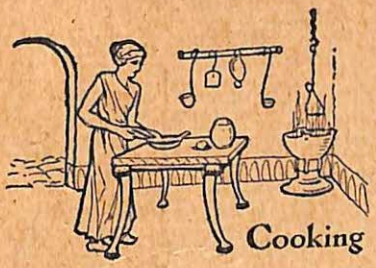
The father of the family was very important, and everyone obeyed him. He walked about his land watching the slaves ploughing,

sowing or reaping, gathering grapes and making wine, or minding the sheep and cattle.

The mother looked after the indoor work, but she had slaves to grind the corn and cook the food. She and her daughters did the spinning and weaving, for everyone wore woollen clothes, and they were all made at home.

The Romans did not think there was one God. Like the Greeks they believed there were a number of gods. Each house had a shrine where the father of the house put flowers and fruit each day as an offering to the gods.

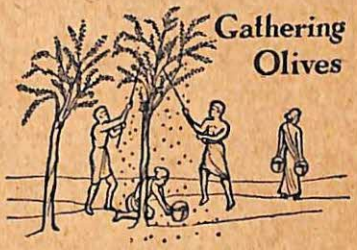
The Romans believed that there was one god who watched over the store cupboard in the house. Another was supposed to guard the door, and another looked after



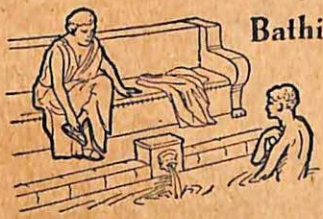
Cooking

Weaving

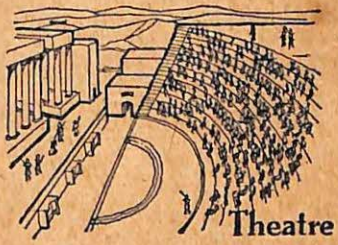
Building Ships



Gathering Olives

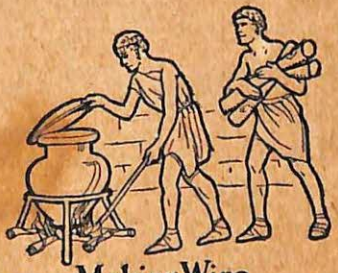


Bathing



Theatre

Gladiators Fighting



Making Wine

Information kindly supplied by the British Museum.

How the Ancient Romans worked and played

the fields and crops. There was a goddess who caused the fire in the hearth always to burn brightly.

These were the home gods and goddesses, but the greater gods had temples in the city and priests to worship them and to offer sacrifices to them. These greater gods were the same as those that the Greeks worshipped, but the Romans gave them Latin names.

Here are some Greek and Roman names :

	Greek name	*Roman name*
King of the Gods	ZEUS	JUPITER
Queen of the Gods	HERA	JUNO
Goddess of Wisdom	ATHENE	MINERVA
God of Speed	HERMES	MERCURY
God of the Sea and Storms	POSEIDON	NEPTUNE

Some of the Roman families lived in farm-houses on their land,

as families do in England to-day. But many others lived in houses in the city, and the men went out every day to their farms, which were not far away.

Sometimes, however, the father and grown-up sons had to leave their happy home and go to fight against an enemy.

This is what a Roman soldier looked like when he was ready to fight. Notice his helmet and big shield which were made of bronze. Sometimes he carried a spear with a sharp iron point, and at his side hung a scabbard holding a short sword made of iron with a bronze handle.

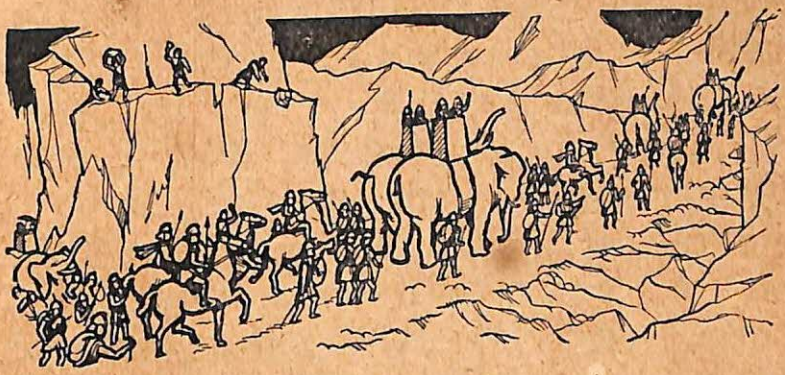
A Roman soldier

It was the Roman foot soldiers who were the most famous and who formed the chief part of the army. They were put in small companies of one hundred with an officer called a centurion to lead them. A number of these companies together formed a regiment, which the Romans called a legion.

In later times the words "Roman legions" used to make people tremble with fear. In the next chapter we shall read how and why the Romans began to make other nations afraid of them.

THINGS TO DO

1. Describe a Roman family in far-off days.
2. Think of some words which begin with "cent" and have something to do with 100.
3. If you had been a child in those days what would you have had to learn to do?



CHAPTER X

The Man who took Elephants over the Mountains

The Romans had to fight very often against the people who lived near them in the hills.

Once they were attacked by a host of tall fair-haired warriors called Gauls who came sweeping down from the north of Italy. After a great struggle the Romans drove them off and saved their city.

There is a famous story of this attack on Rome. Most of the Romans fled away from the city in fear of the Gauls, but a few brave men stayed in the Capitol, which was a castle on a hill in the centre of Rome. The Gauls crept up by night to attack the Capitol, and so quiet were they that the sentries did not hear them.

But there was a temple to Juno on the Capitol, and near it were kept some geese which were sacred to Juno. These geese heard what the men did not hear, and their loud cackling roused the soldiers and saved the Capitol.

Perhaps you wonder why there is so much fighting in these stories.

When the Romans were content

to be rather poor and to live simple lives they fought only when someone else attacked them. But as time went on they wanted to become rich and powerful. They wanted to make a lot of money by trading.

Now there were two other races living near the Romans who wanted to keep all the trade and riches to themselves. First there were the Greeks, some of whom had settled in the south of Italy. Then there were the Carthaginians who lived in Carthage away across the Mediterranean Sea, about three days' journey by boat.

The map on page 84 shows the island of Sicily. In this island the Carthaginians were making new homes, but they did not want anyone else to come and share in

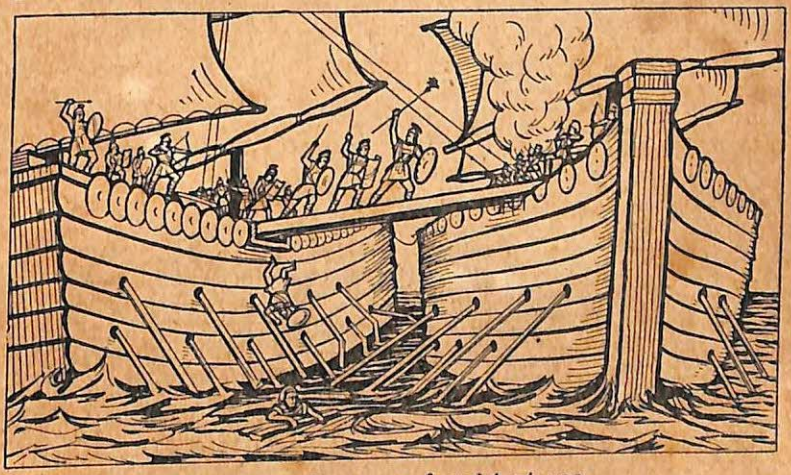
the buying and selling they were doing there.

Map showing where the Carthaginians lived

There is a legend that one day a big Carthaginian ship was wrecked on the shores of Italy. The ship was a quinquireme, which had five rows of oarsmen sitting one above the other, on each side of the ship.

The Romans thought this was a wonderful ship, and they quickly cut down trees and set workmen to copy it. But most of the ships they built had only one or two rows of oars.

Now the Romans were not as good sailors as the Greeks and



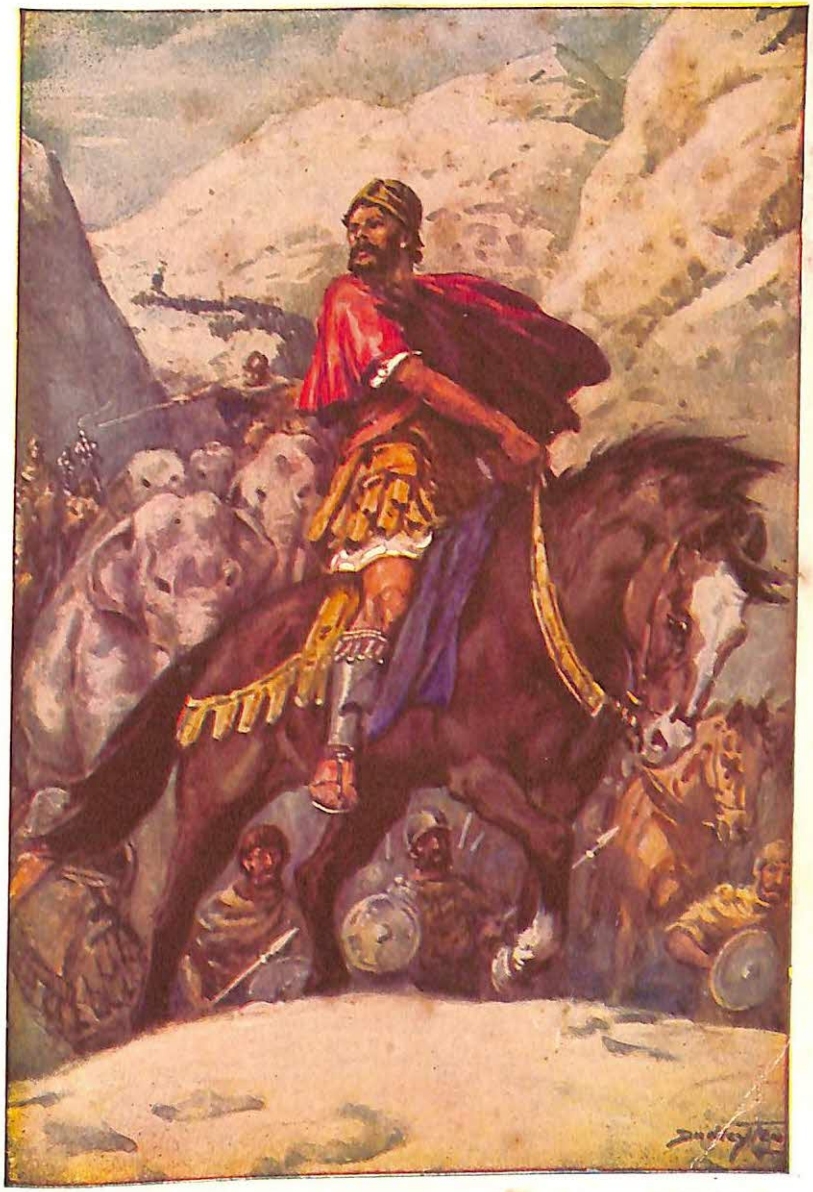
How the Romans fought at sea

Carthaginians were. So when they had to fight at sea they tried to turn a sea battle into a land battle.

They made bridges of wood, with a great spike at the end. They carried them on their ships standing upright near the mast. When they came near to an enemy, they let the bridge fall across the enemy's deck. The spike sank in and so the two ships were fastened together. The Romans could then cross over to the enemy's ship and fight as if they were on land.

They were feeling very angry with the Carthaginians who seemed to be taking so much land. A war began which lasted many weary years.

The most interesting story of this war is the story of Hannibal, the man who took elephants over the mountains. Hannibal was the son of a Carthaginian general who hated Rome. When he was only



From "Cassell's Children's Book of Knowledge."

Hannibal crossing the Alps

nine years old his father made him swear that he would never be friendly to Rome.

He grew to be a very clever general and he remembered his boyish vow. He determined to attack Rome, not by sea but over the mountains called the Alps, which shut in the north of Italy.

With a host of soldiers, many horses, and thirty-seven elephants, he set out to climb the steep path which led up the snow-covered mountains.

For nine long days they climbed. Then they had to descend the icy slopes, and many men and animals slipped and were buried in snow. In the map on page 84 the dotted line shows the way they went. When at last Hannibal reached the plains of Italy, more than half of

his men were dead, and many horses and elephants had fallen by the way. But still he went on, eager to meet the hated Romans.

It would take too long to tell of all the fighting that followed. It lasted for fifteen years, and in the end the Romans won.

Hannibal died, sad and disappointed. The Carthaginians had to promise to give up all their islands in the Mediterranean Sea, and also the land they had won in Spain. Five hundred ships were towed out of the harbour at Carthage and burnt by the victorious Romans.

By defeating the Carthaginians, the Romans won the whole of the lands once held by Carthage. Not long after the fall of Carthage, Rome conquered most

of Greece. Rome was thus mistress of :

Italy and the Islands
Spain
Illyria
Greece
North Africa

The lands conquered by the Romans

While all this fighting was going on the poorer Romans were being very unkindly treated by the richer men and by the nobles.

At last, two brothers called Gracchus made up their minds to help the poor people. They belonged to a rich and powerful family, and their mother Cornelia had taught them that they should always help the weak and the

Cornelia's jewels were her sons

poor. It is said that once when some of the Roman ladies were showing off their jewels to one another, they asked Cornelia to show hers. She put forward her

two young sons and said, "There are my jewels."

The brothers wanted to take land from the rich nobles and to divide it up into small farms for the poor.

But the rich men hated the brothers because they were trying to help the poor, and in the end both of them were killed.

After their death, for many years a struggle went on between the rich and poor in Rome, and it was not until another hundred years had passed that anyone tried to help the poor as the Gracchi had done.

THINGS TO DO

1. Tell the story of Dido which you read in Book I.
2. Answer these questions :
   (a) Who said, "There are my jewels"? What did she mean?
   (b) Describe the picture on page 87.

CHAPTER XI

Julius Cæsar

In Chapter VII we read the story of Alexander the Great of Macedonia. Now we are going to read about a very great Roman called Julius Cæsar, who was born about a hundred years after Rome had defeated Carthage.

He was a thin, dark boy with flashing black eyes which noticed with keen interest what went on around him. He was the son of rich people and had everything he wanted, but as he walked about the streets of Rome he saw how many people were discontented.

Just as in the time of the Gracchi, the long wars had taken men away from Rome to fight. Now they were back again, but many of them were out of work.

The rich Romans did not seem to care, and Julius Cæsar heard much grumbling in the streets, and sometimes he saw fighting and men being murdered.

To put things right he thought that there must be one man over all Rome, with more power than even the senators or the consuls.

He was sent to Gaul, which to-day we call France, to take charge of the Roman armies there.

Cæsar was a brave soldier, a good swimmer and a fine horseman, and his soldiers admired and feared him.

He wrote the story of his work in Gaul, and to-day if we know Latin we can read his very words. One of the stories in his book tells how he came to the coast of Gaul and saw across the water the white cliffs of our own land, where the Britons were living.

He wanted to add it to the Roman possessions, and so he put his soldiers into eighty-seven ships and sailed across the water which to-day we call the Straits of Dover. He left Gaul in the evening, and

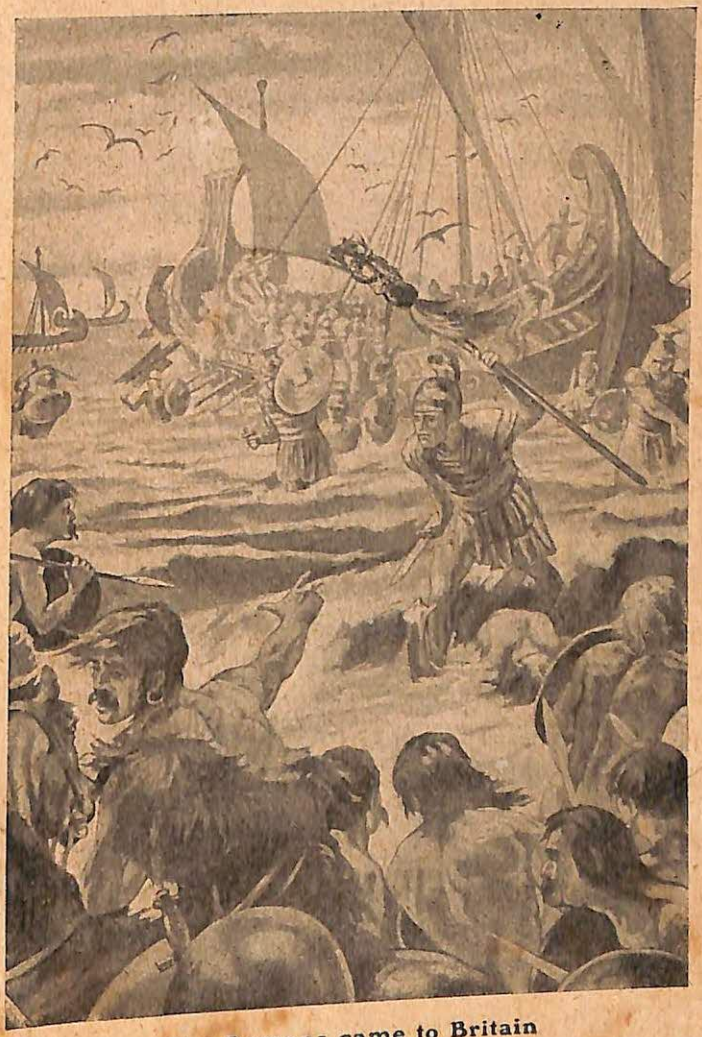
the next morning was off the coast of Britain.

But the Britons had seen the ships coming and, armed with spears and big stones, they stood on the cliffs and on the beach. They looked very fierce with their long hair, big moustaches and some with their skins stained blue.

Cæsar ordered his ships to sail on with the tide farther round the coast. But the Britons moved on, too, and stood on the shore, prepared to defend their country.

Even the Romans, who were so used to fighting, hesitated to jump overboard and wade through the water on to the beach in face of these fierce men.

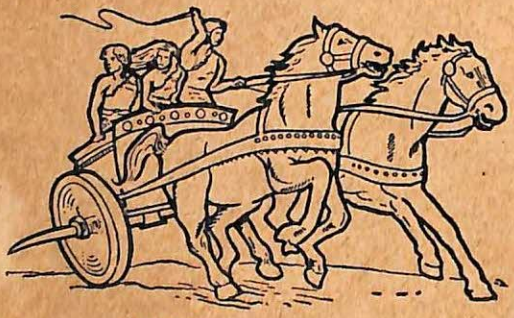
Then the standard-bearer who carried the bronze eagle belonging to one of the legions jumped into



The Romans came to Britain

the water. He called to his comrades to follow unless they wanted the Britons to capture their eagle. This would have been a terrible disgrace, so the Romans sprang after him. They had a hard struggle, but at last the Britons turned and fled.

Cæsar's stay in our land was not a very happy one. A sudden storm caught some of his ships and wrecked them. Then the Britons in their war chariots made several surprise attacks on his camp.



A British war chariot

After three weeks the Romans went back to Gaul. Next year

Cæsar came again and this time he marched inland. He crossed the River Thames at a shallow part, which we call a ford. His stay in our country was only a short one.

Everyone in Rome was talking about Julius Cæsar and the victories he had gained. When at last he went back they gave him a wonderful welcome. They made him first a consul and then dictator, that is a man above everyone else in the state. So you see Cæsar had the position he had thought of years before.

He tried to use his power well, to look after the returned soldiers, to help the farmers and to be fair to rich and poor alike. He planned to have new roads in Rome and splendid new buildings.

But he had many enemies. Some people said that he was doing all this to make himself richer and still more powerful. They thought he wanted to be called "king." The Romans had driven out their king hundreds of years before and had said that they would never have another. So a number of men plotted to kill Cæsar because they said that would be the best thing that could happen for Rome.

An old fortune-teller warned him that on the Ides of March, that is the 15th day of the month, danger was coming to him. His wife begged him not to go out on that morning but he would not listen. He went as usual to the Senate house and seated himself in his golden chair. Suddenly he was

surrounded by men with swords, and was stabbed to death.

He had done much for Rome, and the people mourned for him. Our poet Shakespeare says of him :

"When that the poor hath cried, Cæsar hath wept."

It was his great conquests, especially in Egypt and in Gaul, which made Rome, in her day, the mistress of the world.

THINGS TO DO

1. Draw an outline map of the Mediterranean Sea. Then colour all the lands that belonged to Rome.
2. Pretend you are a standard bearer in the Roman army, and tell the story of how you went to Britain.
3. Write down all the things which we should remember about Julius Cæsar.

How people in Rome were dressed.

CHAPTER XII

An Emperor in Rome

Julius Cæsar was dead, but his death did not end the quarrelling in Rome. For thirteen years fighting went on until all the Romans were weary and longed to have a strong ruler who would keep order.

At last another Cæsar, a nephew of Julius Cæsar, became the most important man in Rome. He was given the title of Augustus which means the "Splendid." Being the leader of the soldiers as well as of the citizens of Rome, he was the first Roman emperor.

Perhaps you wonder why the Romans agreed to this when they had always said they would not have a king. The reason was that they were so glad to have someone strong enough to stop all the quarrelling.

The emperor liked very simple food and clothes for himself, but he wanted Rome to become grand and wonderful.

Round the Forum, a big open space where the citizens met to talk and to do business, he had

many splendid marble buildings put up. There were temples to the gods, big halls where the magistrates tried wrongdoers, and a new Senate house.

Farther away were large public baths where the Romans met to talk as well as to bathe.

Then there was the circus, a huge space surrounded by rows and rows of stone seats. The stone seats were hard and cold, so the rich people took cushions to sit on. The chariot racing was very exciting. Light wooden chariots drawn by four horses were driven round and round the course at a great speed. Often they were upset, and drivers and horses were trampled to death.

But the Romans loved to see men performing dangerous deeds.

Chariot racing in Rome

The athletic games and foot races which the Greeks enjoyed so much, the Romans thought were very tame. They liked to watch wild beasts fighting each other, or men called gladiators fighting fierce and hungry lions. The gladiators also fought against one another.

All classes of Romans went to these shows. There were important men in their tunics and togas of white woollen cloth with sandals on their feet. Roman ladies went, too, wearing long robes and with their faces painted and powdered. Then there were shop-keepers wearing coloured tunics but without the toga, and country people and travellers wearing capes and hoods of shaggy wool.

The market places and streets of Rome were very busy. Down

by the river there was much loading and unloading of ships.

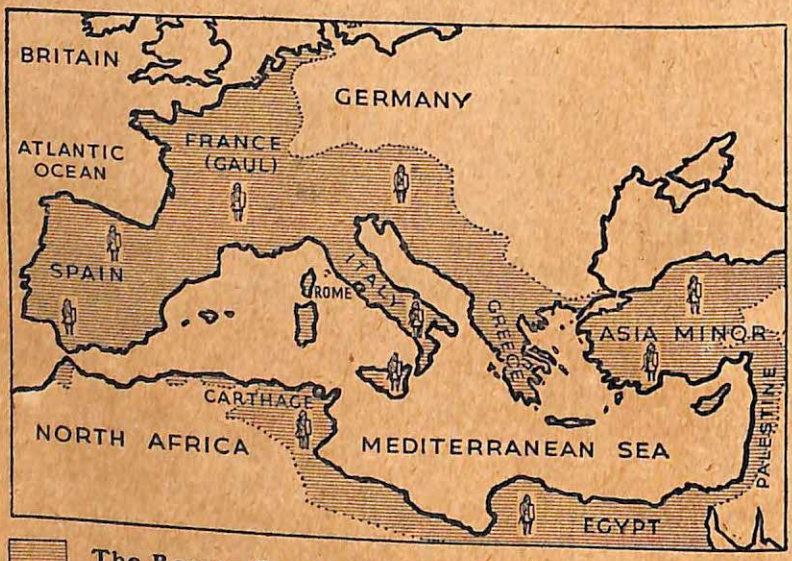
Strings of donkeys or mules laden with goods were constantly

[*By courtesy of British Museum.*

A Roman Butcher's shop

passing from the harbour through the narrow streets. There were many shops such as food shops which sold vegetables, fruit, cheese or wine, and also bakers' and butchers' shops.

All over the Roman Empire there was peace. Augustus ruled so well and chose his helpers so wisely that all the lands which the Romans had conquered settled down to enjoy work and pleasure without fear of war.



The Roman Empire at the death of Augustus

The map shows how many countries belonged to the Roman

Empire at this time. Our little land of Britain was conquered by the Romans about fifty years later.

All this great stretch of land was divided into provinces. In each province was a Roman Governor who had to keep order, collect taxes and send reports to the Emperor at Rome.

Augustus wanted the people in his empire to be taxed fairly according to their number. So he ordered that they should all be counted. We call that taking a census. We take a census in Britain every ten years, but we do it in a very different way.

Augustus said that every family in his empire must go to the town in which the father was born, and be counted there.

In a little country called Palestine at the eastern end of the

Mediterranean Sea, a man and woman set out from their home to go to a village called Bethlehem to be counted there. They were very tired when they climbed the hill where the village stood, so they went straight to the inn to ask for lodging. But there was no room in the inn, and every house in the village was full.

The inn-keeper found room for them in a stable and, in the night, a baby was born. For a cradle they used a manger where the straw for the oxen was kept. You know the name of the baby, but perhaps you did not think of this story as history. Yet it was one of the most important things that ever happened.

Far away in Rome the great Emperor knew nothing of this

baby. The Roman people went on with their busy lives, and never dreamed of the vast influence the child would have on the future world.

Our dates are reckoned backwards and forwards from the birth of Christ. Thus when we say that a thing happened in the year 55 B.C., we mean 55 years before the birth of Christ. The letters A.D. after a date mean that the year is counted after the birth of Christ.

The man who did most to spread the news of Jesus was a tent-maker named Paul. He was a Jew, born at Tarsus in Asia Minor. He became a travelling preacher who passed through strange lands to tell the people the news. The story of his adventures is told in the Bible.

Like all people who try to teach new ideas, Paul had many unhappy adventures. In many places, however, the people crowded to hear him. There was very little freedom in the Roman world, where the

Paul preaching to the people

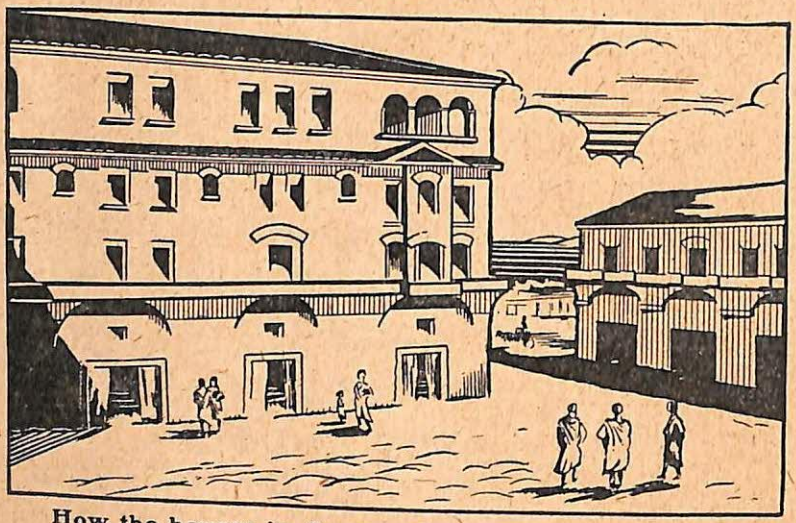
slaves were harshly and cruelly treated. So, as Paul went from town to town preaching that all men were equal in the sight of God,

the common people heard him gladly.

Very slowly Christianity spread through the Roman Empire and through the world. To-day the great cathedral in London, the largest city in the world, is called after St. Paul.

THINGS TO DO

1. Find out how we take a census to-day, and when the next one will be held.
2. The story of the birth of Jesus is told in St. Matthew's Gospel. Some of you may like to read it.
3. Answer these questions :
   (a) Pretend you have been on a visit to the Roman circus, and say what you have seen.
   (b) If you have been to a real circus tell what you saw there.
   (c) Make a list of some of the things Augustus did for his people.
   (d) How many years ago was Christ born? In which countries are Christians living to-day?



How the houses in Ancient Rome must have looked

They are rather like some of the houses we see to-day.

CHAPTER XIII

The Romans and Ourselves

In Chapter VI of this book we read of some of the things in our everyday life which we owe to the Greeks. In this chapter we are going to read of some of the things we owe to the Romans.

We must remember first of all that many of the Greek treasures which have come down to us would never have reached us if it had not been for the Romans. It was they who protected Greece from the fierce wild tribes who lived in the north of Europe and who would have destroyed the beautiful Greek things if they could.

Now let us try to think of what was left to us by the Romans who came to this country.

Britain was part of the Roman Empire for more than three hundred and fifty years. What is left to us of all that long rule? Some of the words in our language will help to tell us. There are names of things which the Romans used at that time and which they brought into the country.

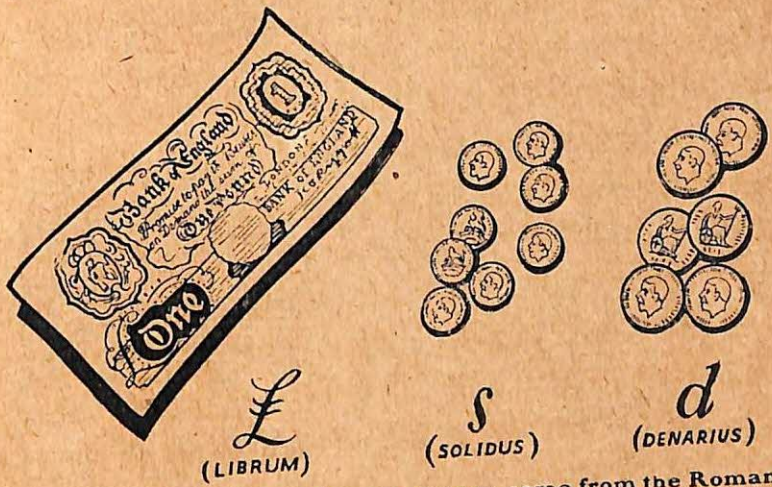
The word "street" is a Roman word. The Romans were the first people to make streets in this country. A street in those days meant a paved road.

There were several Roman roads or streets in Britain. Watling Street, which ran from London north to Chester, is still one of the main roads of this country.

Since most of the Romans who came to this country were soldiers, many of the words that have come down to us from that time are about the things that soldiers would use.

The very word "soldier" means a man who received each day for his pay a "solidus," which was a Roman coin. The "s" that we use when we write £ s. d. comes from this word. £ stands for "librum,"

the Latin word for a pound, and "d" stands for "denarius," the word for a Roman penny. The Roman word



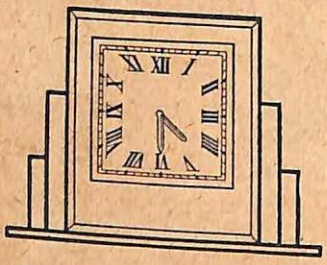
The signs which we use for our money come from the Romans

for "camp" was "castra," and to-day the names of many of our towns show where there were Roman camps. Think, for example, of Doncaster, Chester, Leicester.

The Romans were very particular about measuring distances

and time. Our word "mile" is a Roman word. They measured out the number of miles on every road in the Empire, and Roman milestones can still be seen in England.

Look at your clock face, and see if it has figures like this.



The Romans did not have clocks like ours, but we have taken their way of writing figures for many of our clocks. Roman children used to work sums with figures like these. The chapters in this book are numbered in the Roman way.

The twelve months of our year are Roman names. It was Julius Cæsar who divided the year into the twelve months which we know,

and the month of July was called after him. The next month was called after his nephew Augustus.

All over the Empire, Roman law was used. Many lands such as France, Spain and Italy still use laws based on Roman law.

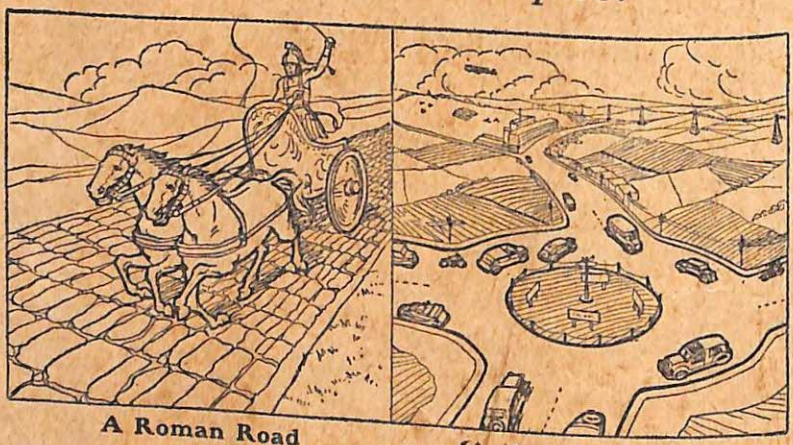
In those countries, too, the language has grown out of the Latin language. To-day people who learn Latin can understand a great deal of French, Spanish and Italian, although they may never have learnt those languages.

Look at these words in the four languages, and see how alike they are:

English	*Latin*	*Italian*	*French*	*Spanish*
Father	pater	padre	père	padre
Mother	mater	madre	mère	madre

The most important thing of all which was handed on to us from the Romans is the Christian

religion. Jesus was not a Roman, but He was born in a Roman province. Christianity was able to spread so quickly because of the Roman roads and towns, and because there was peace in the Roman Empire.



A Roman Road

A Modern Road

THINGS TO DO

1. Find out how to write in Roman figures all the numbers from 1 to 100.
2. The Romans made good roads.

Make a list of other things which have come to us from the Romans. Then make a list of things which have come from the Greeks. The fold-out picture will help you.

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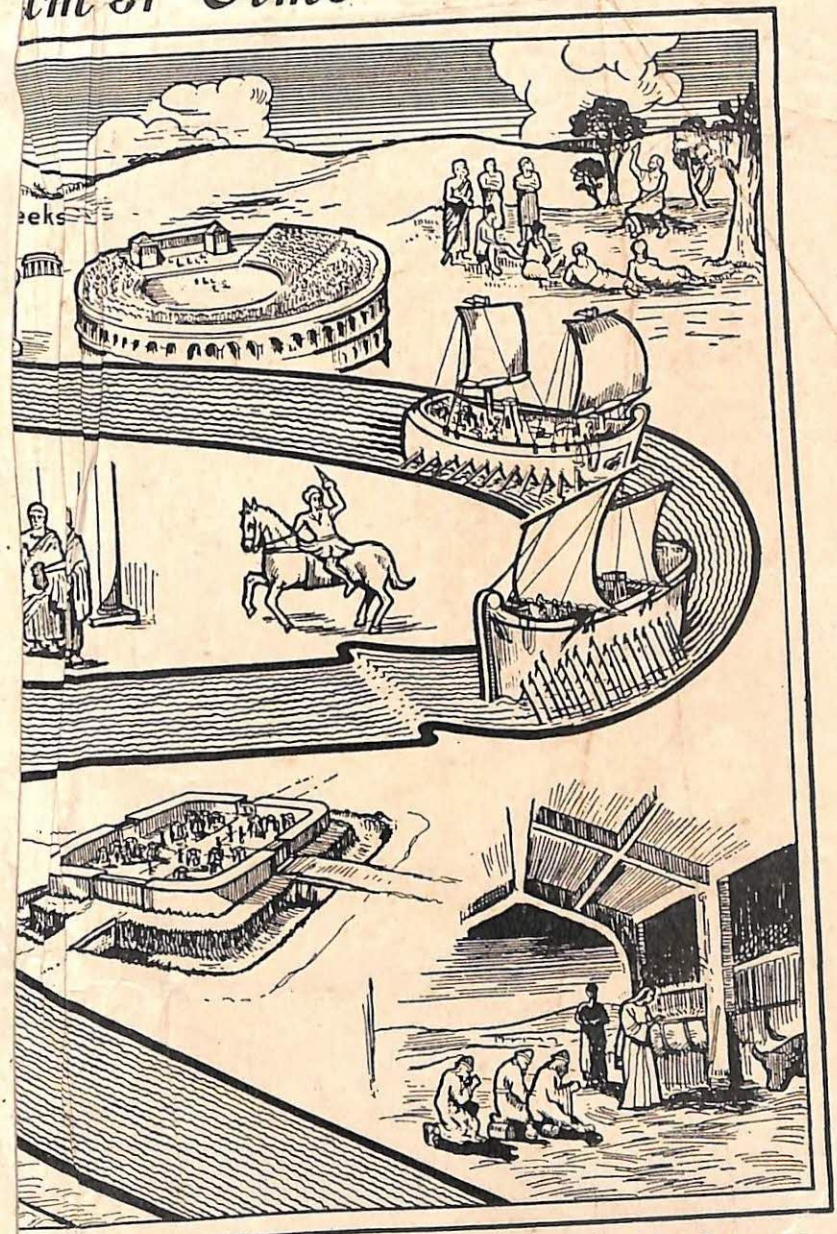

hat has been handed down by the Greeks and the Romans.